



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
 KITTANNING PA 16201  
 CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 KITTANNING PA 16201  
 PERMIT NO 14

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

  
  
**ARC LINK NEWSLETTER**  
 January 2024



**IT'S TIME**  
 Maybe it's time to stay  
 Maybe it's time to go  
 What really is the time?  
 Does anyone actually know?

Maybe it's time for all of us  
 Just to stop and wait  
 Maybe it's time to be kind  
 To someone before it's too late.

Take time just to laugh  
 Or take time to smile.  
 Take time just to say hello  
 To a stranger once in a while.

Take time to love yourself  
 Each and every day  
 Take time to love God too  
 And remember to always pray.

It's time to love each other.  
 It's time to just be glad.  
 Take time to love everyone  
 And your live won't be so bad!

**ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dayton Mix  
 Cell Phone: 724-718-2997  
 E-mail: [pastordayton@gmail.com](mailto:pastordayton@gmail.com)

Pastor: Terri Wells  
 Cell Phone: 814-952-4695  
 E-mail: [terriwells53@aol.com](mailto:terriwells53@aol.com)

**First United Methodist Church-301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-548-4312**

Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM **Email: [fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net](mailto:fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net)**

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 12:00 PM Website: [firstchurchkittanning.com](http://firstchurchkittanning.com)**

Fax: 724-548-5157 Rainbow Road: 724-543-7569

Parsonage- 307 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-543-4808

**Ford Memorial United Methodist Church-1024 Fourth Ave, Ford City PA 16226 724-763-1540**

Worship 11:00 AM **Email: [fordmemorialchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fordmemorialchurch@gmail.com)**

**Manorville United Methodist Church-P.O. Box 174, 800 Water Street, Manorville PA 16238**

Worship 9:45 AM

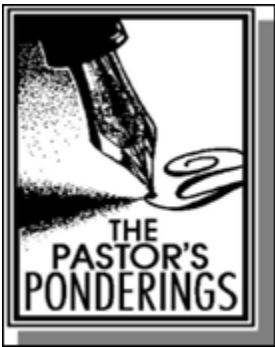
**Email: [mumc@windstream.net](mailto:mumc@windstream.net) 724-763-1254**

**Union Avenue United Methodist Church-421 Union Ave, Kittanning PA 16201**

724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM

**February 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
 Please get articles to Audrey no later than  
**SUNDAY, January 14, 2024.** Thank you.





I heard a story of a man who accidentally calls a wrong 1-800 number and gets GOD. After being apologetic about wasting God’s time with a wrong number. God says that’s OK, what we humans think is a long time is really almost nothing to him. So the man says: “Let me get this right: 1000 of our years are like nothing more than a minute to you?” God says “yes.” The man continues: “So what about money? Is it true that you really own the cattle on a thousand hills and that everything we could possibly ever own is really yours?” Again, God responds with a “yes.” Feeling a bit braver, he pushes on. He says, “So a million dollars to you is like nothing more than a penny, huh?” God says “That’s right.”

The man then asks “Hey God, I got a favor to ask. Can I have a penny?”

To which God responds: “In a minute.”

In Psalm 90:10, we read: **“Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty.”**

The most we can hope for, as far as our age goes, for most of us, is about 70 years; maybe 80 or so if we’re exceptionally strong in health. And just a few verses ahead of that one we read **“For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.”** (Psalm 90:4)

Our full-life, in God’s reckoning of eternity, is like the morning fog: it’s gone pretty quickly without a trace. But what does 70 years give us... what value does it have? Depends on what we put into it.

With 24 hours in a day & 365 days in a year, we each have 8,760 hours in a year. If you multiply that number of hours in a year by a life span of, let’s go ahead and say 70, you get 613,200 hours in a 70 year lifespan.

BY THE WAY, by following the math out, a 70 year lifespan would have 36,792,000 minutes (36 MILLION...) OR 2,207,520,000 seconds (2 BILLION, 207 MILLION...)

So, since our time is our most precious commodity, we ALL could be considered to be MILLIONAIRES! (or even BILLIONAIRES). So how do we spend our time? Into what purposes and activities do we invest our time?

To start with, the average American person, in a 70 year life-span, will have spent an average of 178,360 hours just sleeping. (7 hours/day x 7 days/week x 52 wk/yr x 70 yr = 178,360 hours of sleep in your lifetime. To make it easier to process, you can take that number of sleeping hours (178,360) and divide it by the number of hours in a year (8760) and that means you sleep about 20 years of a 70 year lifespan.

That same person will have spent 145,600 hours of their life working, which turns out to be 17 years spent working out of 70.

That person will also spend an average of 76,440 hours of their life eating! (Assuming an hour for every meal (that’ll count your snacks) X 3 meals a day X 7 days a week X 52 weeks X 70 years = 76,440 hours of eating. That’s almost 9 years of eating!

Time spent watching television is also insightful: 3 hours each day = another 9 years spent just watching T.V. !

Now, when it comes to church, there’s a bit of a problem because the AVERAGE American simply does NOT go to church! So for the average American it boils down to ZERO hours a year.

But, for OUR benefit, we’ll assume the Average American churchgoing Christian will have spent 6/10 of a year worshipping God. (Assuming an hour and a half each week, giving you time to get in here and get out plus the normal hour or so we usually set aside for the worship service.) NOW, some who are reading this are going to challenge me in this. They might say: “That’s not fair, preacher! I go to church more often than that, I’m a really committed Christian!”

Assuming that’s true, we’ll take your Sunday morning worship time PLUS EVERY Sunday School Class you’ve ever attended, PLUS EVERY Prayer Meeting scheduled, PLUS EVERY Bible Study that takes place and we can bump your weekly Church worship time up to about 5 hours in a week. What’s that give us? (5 hours per week X 52 weeks X 70 years = 18,200 hours in worship in your lifetime = about 2 years spent worshipping God.

OH GOD... Teach us to number our days.....

As we look back over this list of time spent, we can see how our little uses of time add up to YEARS throughout the course of a lifetime, so we need to ask God to help us number our days... to make the most of our time.

Who is our god? Our god is the one to whom we give our time and attention. Based on the time and attention you spend on the people and activities in your life, who IS your god? I pray it is the One True God!

OH GOD... **“teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”**

**70 Year Lifespan**

--Psalm 90:12

20 years of sleep	17 years working	9 years eating	9 years television
0.60 years worship	0.50 year stoplights	0.75 year junk mail	1 year lost objects
2 years trying to return calls	4 years housework	5 years line waiting	
<b>1.15 years “free”</b>			

# January LECTIONARY READINGS

January 7, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7;  
Mark 1:4-11



January 21, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5; Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 14, 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6;  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20;  
John 1:43-51

January 28, 2024

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



## ALL CHARGE PAGE

### LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of First Church's Lenten devotional will be printed soon. You don't have to be a professional writer or produce a 3 page masterpiece. Just write a message from your heart and life experience. Each devotion should include a scripture passage, message and a short prayer. **All devotions must be received to the church office no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.** They can be e-mailed, hand delivered, or sent by mail. This will give Audrey time to print and get the devotionals out to the congregation by Ash Wednesday. Members of all churches in the charge are encouraged to participate. This is a meaningful ministry, and we look forward to our Lenten Devotional for 2024.



### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study		JANUARY 2024	
		WEDNESDAYS 10:00 am Ford Memorial UMC 7:00 pm Kittanning: First UMC	
1/3			
1/10	<i>Who Was Balaam?</i>	Why was he important enough to be included in the Bible a dozen times? How does he fit into the Christian message? <i>Check out Numbers 22-24.</i>	
1/17	<i>Amos and the Cows... &amp; Today</i>	Amos' nicknames & images captured the people's attention in order to share God's word with them... and still does 2500 years later. <i>Read the book of Amos before hand from your favorite Bible if possible.</i>	
1/24	<i>Election</i>	A look at the doctrine of Election... the belief that God chooses those people who can be saved. What's our role in that? Does God choose some simply to go to Hell? What's the Bible really say?	
1/31	<i>How Did We Get The Bible?</i>	There are different kinds of Bibles. Some have more books, some less. What's the difference? Who decided? Which is right? Does it make any difference? Which is the best translation? Which should I use?	

# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

## SOUND SYSTEM

7 Dave Yanoschick  
14 John Yankasky  
21 Gabe Smith  
28 Tim King

## COUNTERS

7 Ferguson  
14 Ternent  
21 Yankasky  
28 Bureau

## ACOLYTES

7 Hallie Hoffman  
14 Ashley Yankasky & Carlee Beers  
21 Maddie Smith & Jocelyn King  
28 Wyatt Green & Caden King

## BELL RINGERS

7 Olivia Green  
14 Elizabeth Mix  
21 Caden King  
28 Jocelyn King

## WELCOME CENTER

7 Sarah Heckert  
14 Melissa Bureau  
21 Karen Scaife  
28 Mary Jo Lipski

## SCRIPTURE READER

7 Carolyn Hancock  
14 Sue Hankey  
21 Mary Jo Lipski  
28 Brad Hellein

## USHERS

7 Oxford/Mark Ferguson  
14 Albright/Dan Wolfe  
21 Albright/Dan Wolfe  
28 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski

## JANUARY SIFT LUNCHEON

January SIFT luncheon will be held **Thursday, January 18, 2024**, at noon in the Covenant Center. The menu will be pork and sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, carrots, applesauce, rolls and butter. Dessert will be Gingerbread with whipped cream. The program will be presented by the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County. Reservations can be made from Tuesday, January 2 through noon, Thursday January 11. Reservations will be limited to 75. Doors will open at 11:30AM. You will need to give the names for each reservation. Please call to cancel. Please use the parking lot door. Hope to see YOU there!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Donna King	6 Pam Coggon
8 Kimberly Yankasky	11 Natalie Green
11 Joseph Kachur	14 Ashley Yankasky
14 Jeff Shaffer	

## 2024 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity  
*Cans Received November 15th—December 15th—6,284*  
Total cans received through *December 15th—31,889*

Many thanks to everyone who is saving aluminum cans and bringing them to the church-at the ramp at the back of the church. If you haven't been saving aluminum cans, please start-soft drinks, juice, power drinks, tea, beer, cat food-  
**Aluminum only-NOT "TIN CANS"**, food, soup, etc.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent

**COUNT DOWN  
TO 1 MILLION  
CANS:  
We made it on  
December 5<sup>th</sup>!**

**NEW CAN  
TOTAL:  
1,001,367**

## ONE MILLIONTH CAN COLLECTED!!

On Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Jim "Mr. Can Man" Ternent announced that the long running aluminum can recycling project had crossed the ONE MILLION can mark! Started in 1996 as a Vacation Bible School project, the entire community has come to be involved, saving and delivering to the First Church ramp, and Jim has then counted every single one of them. The project, and Jim, were featured on KDKA's Pittsburgh Today Live on Wednesday, 12/6,, and in the Leader Times newspaper on 12/13. BOTH are available to be viewed on the church's Facebook page: First United Methodist Church – Kittanning, PA

# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

## JANUARY MISSIONS



Please pray and consider donating to missions for January. Once a month, we will be sending funds to Heifer International. In the past we filled a gift ark with chickens, buffalo, goats, sheep, and pigs. This year we would like to provide fish and clean water. To make this happen, our goal is \$600. Please help us reach our goal! Thanks, Marissa & Lorie

## RAINBOW ROAD OUTREACH MINISTRY

Thank you so much for the support the congregation gave for the Rainbow Road Christmas Party. We have begun to reach out in a new way to the Rainbow Road families, many of whom do not have a church home and some of whom watch our service online. At the Christmas party we were able to share the good news of Jesus' birth with the children and their families as well as greet them, get to know them and hopefully make them feel welcome in our church. Future activities will be planned for our Rainbow Road families so we can work on some of our church's mission by REFLECTING



JESUS and helping to LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS. Maybe someday some of these families will join us for worship! Our next event will be on Thursday, February 8 and we will serve a free lunch to the Rainbow Road families between the morning and the afternoon classes from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. This will give our church a chance to get to know and welcome these families again all while we share a lesson on God's love for us! Watch your bulletin for more details on how you can get involved! Thank you! Questions can be directed to Kim Yankasky 724-664-6867



*We extend our Christian compassion and concern to the following families who have recently lost loved ones:*

- \* family of Sandy Warner*
- \* family of Rich Riffer*
- \* family of Barb Anderson*
- \* family of Dan Cornman*



# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Caring Friends,

Your thoughts and prayers mean everything. And as you note, God's peace and love provide comfort. Thank you all so much.

Love and Blessings to you all,  
Sue Stitt

Dear First United Methodist Church Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of non-perishable items to the Food bank at Grace Presbyterian Church. From our perspective, your November food drive was a huge success!

Donations of food are always welcome, but your donation came at an especially opportune time. It is the Christmas season and we always try to give a little extra. Also, we are serving more people than ever before. The need is great! In 2022, our average attendance was 157. We are now serving 250 families every month.



We welcome new volunteers so if you know of anyone who would want to volunteer, have them call me at 724-525-7172. If you know of anyone who is in need of food, have them contact Community Action at 724-548-4308 to register for upcoming food banks.

Thank you again for your donation!

Sincerely,  
Kay Owen  
Grace Presbyterian Church Food Bank



Dear Friends,

All of us at the House of the Carpenter want to say thank you for your donation of \$628.00 supporting our ongoing service to the community. As we move into the holiday season, we realize the number of people coming to us for assistance will increase. The number of people utilizing the food pantry will go up, requests for coats begin, Christmas Kids gifts begin arriving and the Cougar Cocoa for the students at Madison Elementary is being prepared.

All told in the coming weeks thousands of people will be served. Your generous donations provide us with the resources to reach out and support our neighbors in need. None of this happens without the support of our donors. Thank you for all you do. We hope you and those around you have a blessed holiday season.

Blessings and peace to you this Christmas,  
Heather Gallagher, Associate Director  
The House of the Carpenter

# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

Church Family,

On behalf of the FUMC Staffing Team, THANK YOU for your generous donations for Pastor Appreciation and for the Christmas gifts for the First Church Staff and pastors. Your willingness to honor Pastor Dayton, Pastor Terri and the First Church staff is a reflection of your dedication to continue to Know Jesus, Reflect Jesus and Lead Others To Jesus.



Thank you once again,  
Cindy Volek  
Chair, First Church Staffing Team



## FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE

### **JOURNEY TO THE STABLE**



Ford Memorial would like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our first production of "Journey to the Stable". It was a massive success delivering the story of Jesus' birth to over 200 people. Everyone really came together not just as a charge of churches, but as one family in Christ. What a beautiful blessing it was!

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2-Vicki Sheaffer  
7-Tom Franz  
17-Amanda Dingey  
20-Natalie Kamer  
25-Joan Russell





## MANORVILLE LINK PAGE

### THANK YOU NOTES

You are amazing! Your support of the Ford City Food Bank Harvest Blessing Bags was overwhelming. We received over 700 lbs. of food & paper products plus monetary donations from our area churches. With your help, we will be able to make the holidays a little better for many families. Thank you so much for your generosity. Lynette Dowling-Ford City Food Bank Coordinator



Thank you all so much for your support of Spirit Lake Ministry in Sheyenne, ND. Since my mission trip all those many years ago, I have felt a special pull to support them and you have helped me do just that. We were able to send \$200 to their ministry to help those disadvantaged families in the area who are Native Americans. God bless you for your generous hearts. Lu Bennett

What a wonderful time we had at our Christmas dinner on 12/10. Everyone was in a jovial mood and that set the stage for great fellowship, great food, and great fun. Thank you to Brennan for organizing the games (you were great with the kiddos!) and the adults who played some games enjoyed them, also. Thank you to Nancy Busch and Nancy Gaul for all their assistance in getting the meal ready. Thank you to all our other helpers who pitched in where needed. So sorry for those who couldn't join us. It was a time to be remembered with love. Lu Bennett



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cheryl Anderson
- 1 Steve Arblaster-son
- 3 Nathan Czapor
- 8 Jim Boarts
- 10 Robert Conklin, Jr.
- 13 Adley Ray Russelburg
- 14 Erika Olenchek
- 22 Romy Josephine Welch Russelburg
- 23 Jerilyn Lloyd
- 26 Brooke Adalyn Arblaster
- 28 Sean Arblaster



### MANORVILLE FINANCIAL COUNTERS

- 7 JB and Jack
- 14 Mike and Lu
- 21 Nancy and Nancy
- 28 Steve and Lu







## UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Donna Shaffer

